

## **Courage is Needed to Stop Genocide in Darfur**

July 28, 2009

Madam Speaker, it is important in life to call things what they are. Five years ago Congress did the right thing by calling what was happening in Darfur "genocide."

In 2007 I did travel with the gentlewoman from Florida and others to Darfur and saw genocide and its consequences firsthand. It sticks with me today-malnourished children; family members mourning the loss of loved ones; people without homes; disease and despair in refugee camps. But whether or not one has been to Darfur, we know what is happening there. And those of us that have seen it have the obligation to tell the story. While calling the killing and violence "genocide" is a first and necessary step, we must do more. Our responsibility as human beings extends beyond properly recognizing the atrocities as genocide. As witnesses to genocide, we and all nations are obligated to take every necessary step to end the loss of life.

So today I sadly rise five years after Congress declared genocide in Darfur knowing that peace does not yet prevail. Regrettably, we are here again, passing this resolution, to once more call on other nations to join us in taking steps to bring about lasting peace and to preserve the life of other human beings.

The time to act was long ago. And I again urge, as strongly as I know how, for the United Nations and countries with significant influence in Sudan, including China and certain members of the Arab League, to fully commit to helping end the atrocities in Darfur.

It is important to recognize genocide for what it is, but it is even more important that we stop genocide from taking place. The world has said "never again." The world must mean it.

In visiting the Holocaust Museum here in Washington, D.C., I was reminded of an earlier genocide. While there, I saw the Wall of Honor recognizing those who placed their own lives at risk to save the lives of Jews. May we be courageous enough to deserve such recognition in a wall of honor today in stopping the genocide of today.